

Abstract

Patient belongings getting lost is an important issue in emergency rooms across the country. At the University of Louisville Hospital, a Level 1 Trauma Center, belongings are frequently cut off or removed by staff to aid in the care for the patient and subsequently lost. To problem solve this issue, an IUS RN-BSN student developed a plan where all belongings are taken off patients and placed in bins placed in a centralized location. This poster will present the problem solving and development of a successful process to ensure the safety of patient belongings during an emergent time in their life.



Introduction

University of Louisville Hospital see over 3,000 patients a year, 1,000 of these patients are considered critical or severe by the Injury Severity Score. Almost all 1,000 of those critical or severe patients come to Room 9, the trauma room located in the Emergency Room. Room 9 is a four-bay room that is set up for any kind of trauma that comes rolling through the door. A lot of life saving measures take place behind these doors.

Methodology

Belongings tend to get lost the most from these patients during the life saving measures staff take in attempt to save these lives. Patient belongs right now are picked up after the patient has left room 9 and documented in the computer. While high priced items are placed in a safe, things still go missing when the patient is transferred. When this happens, the hospital will sometimes have to replace these items for the patient when they are discharged. Indiana University RN-BSN students decided to place large bins in each bay of room 9 so staff can just place any patient belongings that are taken off the patient into these bins versus the floor or anywhere else they might be placed. This way staff can have on centralized location for belongings and when the patient is transferred they are all in one place instead of scattered all over the floor. After one week of trialing this the Emergency Room techs were asked to take a four question survey regarding this process.



Post Room 9 Bin Survey N=13

1. Were the bins useful?
 - 10 thought the bins to be useful. 3 did not think the bins were useful
 - 11 of them would like to continue the process of the bins. 2 did not want to continue the process
2. Do you feel fewer patient belongings were lost while utilizing this process?
 - 8 believed fewer belongings were lost.
 - 5 did not think fewer belongings were lost
3. . Would you like to continue this process or go back to the old way?
 - 11 of them would like to continue the process of the bins.
 - 2 did not want to continue the process.
4. What are some improvements that could be made to better this process?
 - Placing a liner in the bins so that it stays cleaner
 - The bins were to big and in the way
 - Making sure everyone knows where the bins are located
 - Marking them better/ more noticeable

